

### **REMARKS**

A statement that the present application is the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/EP2003/010838 has been added immediately after the TITLE.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite "at least one of pantethine or phytanic acid" to better conform with U.S. practice. This amendment does not change the scope of the claim in any way.

Claims 2-4 have been amended to recite "according to claim 1 comprising" to better conform with U.S. practice. These amendments do not change the scope of the claims in any way.

Claims 5-8 and 13 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies to conform with U.S. practice and to minimize filing fees.

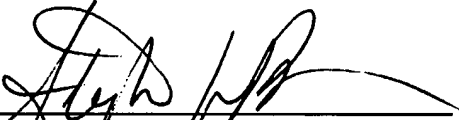
Claims 15-19 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 21-24 have been added. Support for these claims is found in the specification at, for example, page 1, lines 2-6; page 1, line 24 - page 2, line 2; page 6, lines 3-30; and page 7, line 20 - page 8, line 7; in Examples 1-11; and in original claims 15-17 and 19, respectively. See, *In re Gardner*, 177 USPQ 396, 397 (CCPA 1973) and MPEP §§ 608.01(o) and (I).

It is submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the foregoing amendments. Approval and entry of the amendments is respectfully solicited.

Favorable action on the merits including entry of the Preliminary Amendment prior to examination on the merits and allowance of all the claims, respectfully, is requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this paper, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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